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Santa Cruz del Sur.—Dr. Juan R. Xiques reports 2 deaths during the week. No contagious diseases. Inspected 11 vessels during the week.

Respectfully,

J. M. LINDSLEY,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Inspection of coastwise vessels at Cienfuegos.

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *December 13, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that in accordance with recommendations made by Asst. Surg. S. B. Grubbs, U. S. M. H. S., the following schedule for the inspection of coastwise vessels has been made:

Steamships Manzanillo and Sancti Spiritus.—Inspected at Santa Cruz, Wednesday, 11 a. m., on outgoing trip. Inspected at Casilda, Monday, 3 p. m., on return trip.

Steamship Independiente.—Inspected at Casilda, Monday, 6 a. m., on outgoing trip. Inspected at Cienfuegos, Friday, 1 p. m., on return trip.

Steamships Antinogenes and Reina de los Angeles.—Inspected at Cienfuegos, Friday, 11 a. m., on outgoing trip. Inspected at Santa Cruz, Friday, 10 a. m., on return trip.

Steamship Josefita.—Inspected at Cienfuegos, Monday, 11 a. m., on outgoing trip. Inspected at Casilda, Wednesday, 8 a. m., on return trip.

Respectfully,

J. M. LINDSLEY,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report on Mariel Quarantine Station, near Havana, Cuba.

HAVANA, CUBA, *December 5, 1899.*

SIR: Mariel is situated about 21 miles west of Havana, on the northern coast of the island of Cuba. It has an excellent harbor, reached by a narrow channel having a depth of not less than 5 fathoms, thus permitting the passage of the largest vessels. The channel is at present partly closed by the wreck of the Spanish steamer *Alfonso XII*, but there is a clear space of nearly 200 feet between the wreck and the opposite headland.

The town of Mariel has a population of about 3,000, and is situated about 2 miles from the entrance to the harbor.

The quarantine station occupies a point immediately within the entrance to the harbor. This is known as Regla Point, and is surrounded on two sides by water, and cut off from the adjacent country by a stone wall about 9 feet high, extending from sea to sea, a distance of about 1,150 feet. The inclosure is triangular in shape, and the ground is flat and moderately elevated above the level of the sea. Beyond the wall the ground rises in gentle slopes to the surrounding hills.

The reservation as above described is divided into two unequal parts by a stone wall about 5 feet high, immediately adjoining which is a disinfecting house—the smaller portion of the reservation being considered as the “infected” part, and the larger as the “noninfected” part.

The situation of Mariel is admirably adapted for a quarantine station

not only for Havana, but also for other ports on the northern coast of Cuba, and the buildings, as indicated in the plan submitted herewith, are all in a fair state of repair. It has been demonstrated in the case of the steamer *Buenos Aires* that in its present condition it is capable of being utilized for the detention of vessels, or their crews and passengers who may have been exposed to a quarantinable disease. The buildings are spacious, well constructed, well ventilated, and in every way adapted to the purpose for which they were intended, and will accommodate about 1,500 persons. The plan submitted with this report, as well as the copy of report made to me by Act. Asst. Surg. E. F. McConnell, United States Marine-Hospital Service, attached herewith, indicate the dimensions of the various buildings, and also their condition.

It will be seen from the above short description of the reservation that it is capable of being easily guarded, so that the escape of detained persons, or communication with the town of Mariel or with the outlying country, can be made next to impossible. This has been clearly demonstrated in the case of the passengers of the steamship *Buenos Aires*, several of whom openly threatened to make their escape, but not one of whom succeeded in doing so.

Under any conditions, and especially at present, in view of the prevalence of the bubonic plague in Europe and South America, I am of the opinion that the quarantine station at Mariel is indispensable for the proper quarantining and disinfection of infected vessels, their crews and passengers. The detention and disinfection of infected vessels inside a closed and busy harbor like Havana, is certainly not in line with modern quarantine methods, and I would therefore suggest that it be done away with, now that the opportunity presents itself of acquiring a station in every way so well adapted as Mariel; and I would recommend that the station at Mariel be at once developed, and put in first-class condition for all kinds of quarantine work, for the port of Havana as well as for adjacent ports.

Below I beg to submit a succinct statement of the work necessary to be done in order to carry out the views expressed above:

- (1) The present wharf to be extended about 100 feet, so as to obtain a depth of water at the pier head of 30 feet.
- (2) The pier head to be made sufficiently large to accommodate the necessary disinfecting plant for the disinfection of vessels.

NOTE.—The carrying out of the above recommendation would entail considerable expense, and should this prevent its being adopted I would suggest as a temporary expedient that a floating disinfecting plant, more or less on the lines of the barge *Protector* be stationed at Mariel, in connection with the quarantine station.

- (3) Quarters building “c” to be divided into small compartments of about 10 by 10 feet, for the accommodation of first-cabin passengers. This will give ample accommodation for about 80 passengers of this class, or with a little crowding 100 may be accommodated.

- (4) Quarters buildings “f” and “h” to be fitted up with two double tiers of bunks, one on either side, and running the whole length of the buildings. The framework of these bunks to be made of iron stanchions fixed to the floor and securely braced together, and pieces of canvas sufficiently large for the accommodation of one person, to be laced to the frames. In case of necessity a third row of “standees” could be erected in the center of the buildings, thus considerably increasing their capacity.

- (5) The erection of a pumping station, with two large cisterns placed at a height of 30 feet above the ground, one to be used for fresh and the

other for salt water, and pipes to be laid from these cisterns to all the buildings on the reservation.

(6) The erection of an evaporating plant. This is a necessity, inasmuch as the cistern supply of fresh water is at times apt to run short.

(7) The construction of suitable medical officers' quarters, with accommodation for two medical officers.

(8) All the buildings on the reservation to be whitewashed.

(9) The erection of a suitable flagstaff.

Should the above recommendations meet with the approval of the Bureau, I would respectfully ask that authority be given at once to commence the work of a less expensive nature, and in the meantime to make out specifications and obtain bids for the rest of the work. I consider it important that we should keep improving the place, so as to show that we have not abandoned the station.

In a conversation which I had with Governor-General Brook, he assured me that the station was turned over to the Service unconditionally, to be used for quarantine purposes so long as the Service thought fit.

Respectfully,

G. M. GUITÉRAS.

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Description of the buildings on the Mariel quarantine.

MARIEL, CUBA, November 27, 1899.

SIR: In compliance with your verbal order of 21st instant, I have the honor to make the following report upon the quarantine buildings and grounds located at this port:

This station is situated upon a spur of land just inside the entrance of the harbor, and is triangular in shape, the two sides being bounded by water, and the base by a stone wall from eight to nine feet in height, and is divided by a smaller wall about five feet in height.

The buildings number eighteen, and consist of four houses to be used as quarters for quarantined persons, three kitchen buildings, three water-closet buildings, a chapel, a morgue, a disinfecting house, medical officers' quarters, three washhouses, and a small wooden outbuilding.

(a) *Medical officers' quarters.*—This building is situated in the apex of the triangle, and is made of stone covered with plaster. It consists of four bedrooms, a kitchen, a cistern, a small storeroom, and a water-closet. In the center of the building is a large room, 34 feet 4 inches by 22 feet 5 inches, the floor of which is of red tile, and is in fairly good condition. The floors of the other rooms are of wood, and are also in good condition. The entire building is in excellent condition, with the exception of a few feet of the front veranda which require renewal with tiles. The water closet is particularly unsanitary, being located next to the cistern, and is of the ordinary privy-vault type.

(b) Next to this building is a washhouse, of stone and mortar with tiled roof, containing a large stone tub, and furnace for heating the water. This building requires no repairs.

(c) *Quarters No. 1.*—This is a wooden building containing five rooms, each 26 feet 2 inches in width, their respective lengths being 93 feet 5 inches, 65 feet 10 inches, 91 feet 10 inches, 39 feet 10 inches, and 25 feet. The floors of this building are of wood, and are in excellent repair.